



Version 1

Appendix A-Informed Consent (School Administrators, Teachers)

This consent form, a copy of which has been given to you, is only part of the process of informed consent. Please take the time to read this carefully in order to understand any accompanying information. If you would like more details about this project or anything not mentioned here, please feel free to ask.

Project Title: Exploring Primary Educator Use of BioBlitz to Develop Capacity

A BioBlitz is a focused concentration on a specific location through photographs. Educators use BioBlitzes to explore different capacity building and curricular needs for students, and in doing so, connect students to their community and nature in their environment. Currently, the National Geographic organization (<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/bioblitz/>) has designed lessons and activities for students in Grade 4 and older. This research is interested in exploring how primary educators develop capacity through the use of a BioBlitz (i.e. life cycles, Charlotte's Web, community gardens, sustainability, photography, perspective, etc).

Researcher Identity

Name of Principal Researcher: Dr. Stephanie Ann Sadownik

Email of Researcher: stephanie.sadownik@utoronto.ca

Purpose and Use of the Research

The objectives of the study are to explore how primary educators use BioBlitzes to develop capacity. To achieve this objective the study is designed to introduce the activity with a short video discussing a BioBlitz that school principals can introduce to teachers through a staff meeting or professional development activity. The recorded video is posted a YouTube account and can be reviewed here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UAlt8T5R2E&feature=youtu.be>

A survey link is provided for primary educators to document a plan for how to use a BioBlitz following the video introduction and brainstorm with their subject/grade level teaching team/group.

<https://forms.gle/u3ZqnRShLEWj5SKM9>

Following the activity, a survey link is provided for primary educators to share how the planned BioBlitz activity.

<https://forms.gle/eSh3Ho6crwDzntJ76>



The significance of this study is to discover how capacities are potentially built, measured and increased through the use a BioBlitz and with evidence of growth through photography and perspective. Net Zero campaigns encourage students to consider a farm to fork and head to tail understanding of food, sustainability and gastronomy. Finally, time spent in nature and nature therapy through BioBlitz is a consideration for Primary Educators and may confirm the activity as a way to connect primary students to nature in their community and local environment. The data collected from this study will help to inform my study. Participants are selected based on their background and experience.

Data Storage

Data will be collected, copied and stored to maintain accuracy and validity. Data will be stored at the University of Toronto. In all my written works, oral presentations, and publications, your name will not be used. Information regarding your identity remains confidential and any personal identifiable information will be omitted.

Please note that, should you change your mind, you are free to withdraw from this study at any time, however participant data is unable to be withdrawn from the study after December 1st, 2024. It is also important that you are aware of your rights to decline any of the specific questions. I will destroy my copy of the collected data 5 years after the publication of findings procedures and guidelines that have been provided to me related to conducting research with you.

What Will I Be Asked To Do?

The interview process with the participant will include a question and answer period where the participant can clarify any questions, concerns or modifications required for their participation in the study.

During the initial interview and throughout the process the researcher will ascertain personal information about the participant related to the following:

- Current role in education (i.e. School Administrator, Primary Educator, etc)
 - Planned curricular objectives intended to develop with the use of a BioBlitz in primary grades
- Reflections of educators on lesson plans, and other noted capacities unforeseen that were observed

Personally, identifiable information requested from the participants will be excluded or concealed to ensure confidentiality. Pseudonyms will be used for names of the participants.

The data collected will be used to inform the study. Conference proceedings or journal articles will be

used (if accepted and of interest) however, data will not contain any personal identifying information.

Is Participation Voluntary?

Your consent to participate is completely voluntary. You may withdraw your consent at any time without any negative consequences to your position or registration with the College of Teachers or your employer.

What Type of Personal Information Will Be Collected?

Prior to the commencement of the interview a background survey will be used to collect demographics. Should you provide consent for your information to be referenced as a participant, your lesson plans, curricular objectives, grade level and reflections may be published in reference to the study.

What Are The Potential Risks or Discomforts of Participating in this Study?

Participants have a low risk for feeling discomfort related to discussing their professional use of a BioBlitz and experience or knowledge of curricular documents for primary students.

Participants have a low risk for feeling discomfort related to a heightened awareness they may feel about their professional identity as it relates to their use of a BioBlitz and experience or knowledge of curricular documents for primary students.

Participants have a low risk for any negative consequences related to their participation in the study due to the confidential nature of the information collected and stored by the researcher.

Unless a participant directly mentions their intent to harm themselves and/or others the researcher will not disclose the identification of a participant through the course of the study. The data that is presented will help to inform the next phase of implementation on the research topic.

Compensation

Participants will not be compensated for parking or travel costs.

How Do I Benefit from This Study?

The potential benefit for primary educators and school administrators is the professional development of primary educators in the areas of sustainability, gastronomy, community gardens, BioBlitzes, and observed and measurable growth and capacity building for primary students attending their school.

What Happens to the Information I Provide?



Participation is completely voluntary, and confidential. You are free to discontinue participation at any time during the study. No one except the researcher and researcher's supervisor will be allowed to see participant responses prior to information being summarized for any presentation or publication of results. After the interview the research team will remove all personally identifiable information from the data collected and will provide participants with a summary of its findings. Participants will not be singled out in any way but their answers may be of interest to the College of Teachers and other employers who may update their technology policies as a result of the summary.

During a survey, participants are provided with a link to complete without providing personally identifiable information. Information can be collected through the use of a Google Form for individual schools without collecting email addresses that identify the participant.

Data collected will be analyzed based on content and discourse analysis. No participant data will be discussed, viewed or analyzed without informed consent/assent. The data collected will be used to inform the study. Conference proceedings or journal articles will be used (if accepted and of interest) however, transcript data will not contain any personal identifying information.

Written Consent and Signatures

Your signature on this form indicates that you understand to your satisfaction the information provided to you about your participation in this research project.

In no way does this waive your legal rights nor release the investigators, sponsors, or involved institutions from their legal and professional responsibilities. You are free to withdraw from this research project at any time. You should feel free to ask for clarification or new information throughout your participation.

Participant's Name:

(Please Print)

Participant's Signature: Date: (YYYY/MM/DD)

A copy of this consent form will be given to you to keep for your records and reference. The researcher will keep a copy of the consent form.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about this research and/or your participation, please contact:

Name(s): Stephanie A Sadownik

Organization: University of Toronto

Phone number: 416- 978-0121

Email address: stephanie.sadownik@utoronto.ca

Concerns or Complaints



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This study is listed under the University of Toronto ethics protocol # 45197.

If you have any concerns or complaints about your rights as a research participant and/or your experiences while participating in this study, you may contact the Research Oversight and Compliance Office - Human Research Ethics Unit (ethics.review@utoronto.ca, 416-946-3273).

Please keep this form for your records, a link to a pdf version that can be downloaded is provided .

Completion and submission of the background survey or interview means your consent to participate.